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PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application
Based on International Application No. PCT/EP98/06952
Filed November 3, 1998
Inventor(s) KESSLER *et al.*

For: **SPECIFIC AND SENSITIVE NUCLEIC ACID DETECTION METHOD**

Attorney Docket No. 4817/0Q

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Box PCT
Washington, D.C. 20231

Alameda, CA 94501
Date: May 4, 2000

Sir:

Prior to examining the above-referenced application as entering the National Stage under 35 U.S.C. §371, please consider the following amendments and remarks.

IN THE CLAIMS:

At page 71, line 1, of the amendment of claims under PCT Article 19, please delete "Claims" and insert therefor --WHAT IS CLAIMED IS: --.

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Amended) A method [Method] for the detection of a nucleic acid comprising the steps;